AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus comprising a dielectric layer, wherein charge is transferred between said dielectric layer and a charge-transfer controlling means so as to apply charge to or remove charge from said dielectric layer, wherein said dielectric layer has a low-resistance layer formed on the outer surface thereof, said low-resistance layer comprises a large number of conductive portions, charge is transferred between said conductive portions and said charge-transfer controlling means so as to apply charge to or remove charge from said conductive portions, and said conductive portions are arranged to be dispersed separately from each other.

2. (original): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conductive portions are a large number of dots which are dispersedly arranged.

3. (original): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said large number of conductive portions are at least partially exposed on the surface of said low-resistance layer.

4. (currently amended): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the electric resistance of said low-resistance layer is anisotropic ~~in~~ such that ~~a manner as to satisfy~~ [["]] resistance in a direction perpendicular to the plane direction of said low-resistance layer [[(i.e.]] in vertical direction [[ ) <]] is less than resistance in the plane direction of said low-resistance layer [[(i.e.]] in lateral direction [[ )"]].

5. (previously presented): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the thickness of said low-resistance layer is set to be 1 μm or less.

6. (withdrawn, currently amended): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~claim 1, comprising:

~~a step of~~ previously forming a large number of concavities in the outer surface of said dielectric layer so that said concavities are dispersed separately from each other,

~~a step of~~ coating conductive material onto the surface of said dielectric layer formed with said concavities, and

~~a step of~~ grinding at least said coated conductive material, thereby forming the large number of conductive portions which are separately dispersed.

7. (withdrawn, currently amended): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 through 5~~claim 1, comprising:

~~a step of~~ making said dielectric layer from an insulating material which is soluble relative to a predetermined liquid, and

~~a step of~~ spraying a liquid, prepared by dispersing conductive particles dispersed into said predetermined liquid, onto predetermined positions of the surface of said dielectric layer at predetermined intervals, thereby forming said conductive portions.

8-27. (canceled).

28. (new): An image carrier used in an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the low resistance layer and the large number of conductive portions are fixedly disposed with respect to the dielectric layer.

29. (new): An image carrier, comprising:

a first layer having a first resistivity;

a second layer having a second resistivity formed on the outer surface of the first layer, wherein the second resistivity is substantially different than the first resistivity;

wherein the second layer comprises a large number of conductive portions that are arranged to be disposed separately from each other;

wherein charge is transferred between the conductive portions and a charge-transfer controller so as to apply charge to or remove charge from the conductive portions; and

wherein an electric resistance of the second layer has anisotropic properties so that the resistance in a direction perpendicularly crossing a plane direction in a longitudinal direction of the second layer is lower than the resistance of a plane direction in a transverse direction of the second layer.

30. (new): The image carrier as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first layer comprises a dielectric layer and the second layer comprises a low resistance layer.

31. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 2, comprising:

previously forming a large number of concavities in the outer surface of said dielectric layer so that said concavities are dispersed separately from each other,

coating conductive material onto the surface of said dielectric layer formed with said concavities, and

grinding at least said coated conductive material, thereby forming the large number of conductive portions which are separately dispersed.

32. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 2, comprising:

making said dielectric layer from an insulating material which is soluble relative to a predetermined liquid, and

spraying a liquid, prepared by dispersing conductive particles dispersed into said

predetermined liquid, onto predetermined positions of the surface of said dielectric layer at predetermined intervals, thereby forming said conductive portions.

33. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 3, comprising:

previously forming a large number of concavities in the outer surface of said dielectric layer so that said concavities are dispersed separately from each other,

coating conductive material onto the surface of said dielectric layer formed with said concavities, and

grinding at least said coated conductive material, thereby forming the large number of conductive portions which are separately dispersed.

34. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 3, comprising:

making said dielectric layer from an insulating material which is soluble relative to a predetermined liquid, and

spraying a liquid, prepared by dispersing conductive particles dispersed into said predetermined liquid, onto predetermined positions of the surface of said dielectric layer at predetermined intervals, thereby forming said conductive portions.

35. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 4, comprising:

previously forming a large number of concavities in the outer surface of said dielectric layer so that said concavities are dispersed separately from each other,

coating conductive material onto the surface of said dielectric layer formed with said concavities, and

grinding at least said coated conductive material, thereby forming the large number of conductive portions which are separately dispersed.

36. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 4, comprising:

making said dielectric layer from an insulating material which is soluble relative to a predetermined liquid, and

spraying a liquid, prepared by dispersing conductive particles dispersed into said predetermined liquid, onto predetermined positions of the surface of said dielectric layer at predetermined intervals, thereby forming said conductive portions.

37. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 5, comprising:

previously forming a large number of concavities in the outer surface of said dielectric layer so that said concavities are dispersed separately from each other,

coating conductive material onto the surface of said dielectric layer formed with said

concavities, and

grinding at least said coated conductive material, thereby forming the large number of conductive portions which are separately dispersed.

38. (new): A method of manufacturing an image carrier as claimed in claim 5, comprising:

making said dielectric layer from an insulating material which is soluble relative to a predetermined liquid, and

spraying a liquid, prepared by dispersing conductive particles dispersed into said predetermined liquid, onto predetermined positions of the surface of said dielectric layer at predetermined intervals, thereby forming said conductive portions.